

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Leonardite Products, LLC

North Dakota Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Leonardite Products Plant Expansion Project Yields Big Results

Client Profile:

Leonardite Products, LLC, is an independently owned and operated mining and processing company, located in Williston, North Dakota. Leonardite is the only material mined and processed at their plant. The company employs 7 people.

Situation:

Leonardite's new ownership wanted to test the market and evaluate their operations. Some of their equipment had been retrofitted from other industries and they knew that their current operation needed to improve workflow and become more efficient as their sales are based on productivity. The company contacted the North Dakota Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Dakota MEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

Dakota MEP helped Leonardite conduct a full review of current operations and future projections for capacity planning. In addition, they helped with the planning and objective (timelines) around the rebuilding process of the plant. Dakota MEP worked with their consultants to develop a budget and a plan to take to investors. Dakota MEP worked with Leonardite to help manage and maintain objectives and timelines around several components, including rebuilding processing equipment and plant structure. As a result of Dakota MEP's assistance, Leonardite Products increased tons processed per month by 747. After working with Dakota MEP, Leonardite Products increased their tons processed/month from 289 in June of 2008 to 747 in April of 2010. Their productivity has doubled. In addition, their material handling was reduced considerably. An additional benefit was the mindset within the management. They were open to suggestions, adopted new ideas and improved day-to-day operations. Everyone embraced a way of thinking of how to do things more efficiently.

Results:

* Increased productivity by 100 percent.

Testimonial:

"We are grateful for the assistance we have received from Dakota MEP. With the help of MEP, we move ahead with confidence and increased profitability, as we expand our operation."

Cherie Harms, President